

TITLE OF THE INVENTION

CONNECTING MEMBER FOR A SOUND GENERATOR

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a connecting plate  
5 for a sound generator such as an electromagnetic sound generator which generates sounds by vibrating a vibration plate by an electromagnet, and more particularly to a connecting plate for a small sound generator used in a portable telephone and a beeper as a telephone ringer.

10 In recent years, a small electronic device such as the electromagnetic sound generator is directly mounted on a printed circuit board by the surface mount technology. In order to connect the sound generator to the circuit on the printed circuit board, a pair of metallic connecting plates  
15 are used.

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of a conventional electromagnetic sound generator disclosed in Japanese Patent Application Laid Open 8-321670. An electromagnetic sound generator 20 comprises a cylindrical case 21 in which sound generating members such as a yoke, an electromagnetic coil and a vibration plate are mounted, and a pair of connecting spring plates 22 downwardly extending from the upper surface of the case 21 in parallel with each other. The connecting spring plate 22 is made of phosphor bronze  
20 or stainless steel so as to have elasticity in whole. A lower end portion of each connecting spring plate 22 is upwardly bent to form a bent portion 23. On the underside of the bent portion 23, a projection 24 is formed so as to be pressed  
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against a terminal provided on a printed circuit board of an electronic device such as a portable telephone.

Fig. 4 is a sectional perspective view showing another conventional electromagnetic sound generator. An 5 electromagnetic sound generator 30 comprises a cylindrical case 31 similar to the case 21 of Fig. 3, and a pair of connecting spring plates 32 parallelly and outwardly extending from the upper circular surface of the cylindrical case 31. Each of the connecting spring plates 32 is inwardly 10 bent at an intermediate portion thereof into a U-shaped form. A projection 33 is provided on the upper surface of the returned portion of each connecting spring plate 32 so as to be pressed against a terminal provided on a printed circuit board of an electronic device.

15 The above described connecting spring plates 22 and 32 are coated with Ni plating and with Au plating on the Ni plating as surface treatment. An end of the spring plate is connected to a terminal of the sound generator with solder, and the Au of the other end is connected to the terminal of 20 the printed circuit board by pressing against the terminal.

However, since the whole surface of the connecting spring plate is coated with Au, the manufacturing cost of the spring plate becomes high.

## 25 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Accordingly, an object of the present invention is to provide a connecting spring plate which may be manufactured at a low cost without reducing the characteristic and

performance of the connecting spring plate.

According to the present invention, there is provided a connecting member for a sound generator comprising a pair of connecting spring plates, each of the connecting spring 5 plates having a first end connecting portion to be connected to a terminal of a sound generator, and a second end connecting portion to be connected to a circuit for operating the sound generator, a surface of the first end connecting portion being treated so as to be soldered to the terminal 10 of the sound generator, and a surface of the second end connecting portion being coated with gold by gold plating.

The surface of the first connecting portion is coated with gold by gold plating.

The surface of the first end connecting portion is 15 coated with a solder by solder plating.

A portion other than the first and second end connecting portions are coated with nickel by nickel plating.

These and other objects and features of the present invention will become more apparent from the following 20 detailed description with reference to the accompanying drawings.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is a perspective view showing an electromagnetic 25 sound generator provided with a pair of connecting spring plates of the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a perspective view showing the connecting spring plates;

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of a conventional electromagnetic sound generator; and

Fig. 4 is a sectional perspective view showing another conventional electromagnetic sound generator.

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#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring to Figs. 1 and 2, an electromagnetic sound generator 10 has a case 1 in which a buzzer is mounted. A pair of connecting spring plates 2 are extending from the 10 upper surface of the sound generator 10 in parallel with each other.

Each of the connecting spring plates 2 is made of phosphor bronze or stainless steel so as to have elasticity in whole, and formed into an L-shaped form. An extending 15 end portion of the spring plate 2 is bent in U-shape. A base end connecting portion 2A is bent in L-shape and another end connecting portion 2B is bent in U-shape as connecting portions between the second generator and a printed circuit board.

20 The spring plate 2 is coated with nickel (Ni) by nickel plating as surface treatment. The surface of each of the connecting portion 2A to be connected to a terminal of the sound generator 10 is treated so that the connecting portion 2A can be connected to a terminal of the sound generator 10 25 by soldering. For example, the surface of the connecting portion 2A is coated with gold (Au) by gold plating or with a solder by solder plating. The surface of each connecting portion to be connected to a terminal of the printed circuit

board is coated with gold by gold plating.

Each connecting portion 2A coated with Au or a solder is connected to the terminal of the sound generator 10 by a solder.

5        Each connecting portion 2B coated with gold is connected to the terminal of the printed circuit board of an electronic device such as a portable telephone by pressing the connecting portion against the terminal.

10      Areas occupied by the connecting portions 2A and 2B of each spring plate 2 are very small, and a most part of the spring plate 2 is an intermediate portion 2C coated with nickel.

15      Therefore, in accordance with the present invention, the connecting spring plate can be manufactured at a very low cost without reducing the characteristic and performance thereof.

20      Although the electromagnetic sound generator is employed in the above described embodiment, a moving coil sound generator and a multi-function sound generator having a vibrator and a buzzer can be used for the present invention.

25      While the invention has been described in conjunction with preferred specific embodiment thereof, it will be understood that this description is intended to illustrate and not limit the scope of the invention, which is defined by the following claims.